DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 409 927 JC 970 376

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TITLE Entry-Level Placement Scores for the 1996-97 Academic Year.
INSTITUTION Miami-Dade Community Coll., Fla.
PUB DATE 1 Jun 97
NOTE 8p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *College Entrance Examinations; *College Preparation; Community Colleges; Criteria; *Cutting Scores; Limited English Speaking; Performance Tests; Program Implementation; Remedial Programs; *State Standards; *Student Placement; Two Year Colleges
IDENTIFIERS Miami Dade Community College FL

ABSTRACT

This memorandum reviews the implementation of new, state-mandated placement criteria at Florida's Miami-Dade Community College (MDCC). The first section focuses on placement criteria for degree-seeking students, indicating that MDCC uses scores on the Florida College Entry-Level Placement Test for making placement decisions in reading, writing, and algebra courses and presenting definitions of students who are required to test and those who are exempt. This section also provides a chart of placement test cut scores and the required college preparatory courses by score for reading, writing, and mathematics. The next section describes requirements for students who enroll without sufficient proficiency in English, indicating that they are required to take the English Placement Test (EPT) and providing a chart of EPT scores and related college-preparatory or college-level courses. Finally, testing procedures and placement criteria are provided for post-secondary adult vocational programs at the college, indicating that MDCC uses the Test of Adult Basic Education and presenting definitions of vocational students required to take the test and those who are exempt. (HAA)

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ED 409 927

# Entry-Level Placement Scores for the 1996-97 Academic Year

Eduardo J. Padron

Miami-Dade Community College

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JC 970 376

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**Miami-Dade Community College**
**Office of the District President**

June 1, 1997

MEMORANDUM

To: All College Personnel

From: Eduardo J. Padrón EJP

Subject: Entry-Level Placement Scores for the 1996-97 Academic Year

Last year, the State of Florida increased scores below which college preparatory course work is required. Miami-Dade received a one-year exemption but must now implement the new scores as of July 1, 1997.

They are reflected in the enclosed Placement Criteria for Academic Year 1997-98. **The new scores will significantly increase the number of entering students placing into college prep.** In Reading, approximately 72% will require college prep placement. In Writing, 57% will require such placement. In algebra, the figure is 79%. This means fewer entering students will be taking college-level courses.

House Bill 1545, which also goes into effect July 1, 1997, requires students to pay "full instructional costs" after the first attempt in college prep courses, further shifting our enrollment. These two developments present new challenges for our students and for us. We need to use our collective talents to develop innovative strategies to ensure our students have what they need to become successful. Thank you.

RG/rg

JUNE 1, 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Full-Time Faculty and Staff

FROM: Academic Affairs Committee
Research and Testing Committee

SUBJECT: PLACEMENT CRITERIA FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 1997-98

**Since 1985, the State of Florida has required entry-level testing for students seeking Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees. Students whose native language is not English may be required to take another test to measure their English proficiency before entry-level testing is permitted. The State has also required agencies offering Post-Secondary Adult Vocational (PSAV) Programs to test vocational students entering their programs. This year's Placement Criteria Document is divided into three parts: Placement Criteria for Degree-Seeking Students, Placement Criteria for English Proficiency Testing, and Procedures for Testing and Placement Criteria for Post-Secondary Adult Vocational Programs.**

## PLACEMENT CRITERIA FOR DEGREE-SEEKING STUDENTS

Since July 1, 1995, the State of Florida has required each public college and university to obtain scores on one of the following test batteries for degree-seeking students prior to registration: Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT), American College Testing (ACT), or the Florida College Entry-Level Placement Test. The Florida College Entry-Level Placement Test consists of the Computerized Placement Test (CPT) and a paper/pencil version of the CPT. CPT will be used in this document to designate both forms of this test.

The State sets minimum scores below which college preparatory work is required in reading, writing, and algebra. These minimum scores were first set in January 1985, revised in August 1991 and revised again to be effective July 1, 1996. Also effective with the most recent rule, institutions will no longer have the option of setting higher scores for placement into college-level courses. Miami-Dade received a one-year exemption to the cut-score increase, but must implement the new scores on July 1, 1997. Miami-Dade Community College requires additional testing in arithmetic depending on the scores received on the algebra portion of the placement test.

Miami-Dade will require students who meet any of the following definitions to take the CPT prior to registration unless exempted. **Placement scores are valid for two years.** A registration hold is in place to prevent student registration until scores are presented. Further assessment may be conducted in courses. Retesting on the CPT will be done according to college policies and procedures.

**REQUIRED TO TEST:**

1. All first-time-in-college students who designate themselves as degree-seeking. Such students may not register for any credit course at Miami-Dade until they have scores on file.

2. All students who register for any English or mathematics course.

3. All students who register beyond 15 cumulative credits.

4. High school students whose scores place them in college preparatory courses are not permitted to dual enroll at Miami-Dade Community College.

5. All students who took a placement examination more than **two** years ago and whose scores have not been used for placement decisions.

**EXEMPTED FROM TESTING:**

1. Students who have earned an associate degree or higher from an accredited institution. Official documentation is required.

2. Students who have had scores used for English and mathematics course placement decisions even if the scores are over two years old.

3. Students who have earned a grade of "C" or higher in both a college-level English course and a college-level algebra course.

4. Students who have previously attended another college or university and are enrolling for courses to transfer to their primary institution (and who are not seeking a degree at M-DCC) are exempt from basic skills testing unless they enroll in an English or mathematics course.

5. Students who present SAT1 or ACT scores which meet State requirements (see below). If multiple test results are on record, the highest subtest scores are used. Placement scores are valid for two years. Any score below that needed for exemption will result in testing on the entire CPT battery.

| Skill Area | ACT Subtest Score | SAT1 After March 31, 1995 Subtest Score |
|---|---|---|
| Reading | Reading ≥18 | Verbal ≥420 |
| Writing | English ≥18 | Verbal ≥420 |
| Mathematics | Mathematics ≥18 | Math ≥440 |

6. Students in specified programs for which the College President may waive assessment within the guidelines provided by State Rule.

**Placement Guide** The following placement scores on the CPT are in effect. If scores on one or more of the subtests require college preparatory placement, students must enroll in at least one college preparatory course during their first term. **Students placing into college preparatory course work in one skill area are required to enroll concurrently in SLS 1505; two or more skill areas are required to enroll concurrently in SLS 1535.**

**1997-98 COURSE PLACEMENT GUIDE[1]**

| CPT Scores | | CPT Scores | Placement Required |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Reading*** | | | |
| ***(Tested Before July 1, 1997)*** | | ***(Tested on or After July 1, 1997)*** | |
| 26 - 43 | [2]REA 0001 | 26 - 50 | [2]REA 0001 |
| 44 - 71 | REA 0002 | 51 - 70 | REA 0002 |
| 72 - 77 | REA 1105 | 71 - 82 | REA 0010 * |
| 78 - 120 | None Required | 83 - 120 | None Required |
| 100 - 120 | [3]Honors Option | 100 - 120 | [3]Honors Option |
| ***Writing*** | | | |
| ***(Tested Before July 1, 1997)*** | | ***(Tested on or After July 1, 1997)*** | |
| 26 - 47 | ENC 0002 | 26 - 50 | ENC 0002 |
| 48 - 77 | ENC 0020 | 51 - 70 | ENC 0020 |
| 78 - 88 | ENC 1130 | 71 - 82 | ENC 0021 * |
| 89 - 120 | ENC 1101 | 83 - 120 | ENC 1101 |
| 100 - 120 | [3]Honors Option | 100 - 120 | [3]Honors Option |
| ***Mathematics*** | | | |
| Placement may be based on a combination of tests. Arithmetic scores are required for students scoring below the noted score on the Algebra test and determine placement for those students. | | | |
| ***(Tested July 1, 1995 - June 30, 1996)*** | | | |
| **Algebra Scores** | **Arithmetic Scores** | | **Required Placement** |
| 20 - 60 | 19 - 29 | | MAT 0003 |
| | 30 - 47 | | MAT 0003 or MAT 0012 |
| | 48 - 120 | | MAT 0012 or MAT 0024 |
| 61 - 74 | **NO SECOND TEST** | | **MAT 1033** ** |
| 75 - 120 | **Advanced Math Scores** | | **Recommended Placement** |
| | 16 - 62 | | MAT 1033 |
| | 63 - 83 | | MAC 1102 |
| | 84 - 94 | | MAC 1114 or MAC 1140 |
| | 95 - 120 | | MAC 2311 |
| ***(Tested July 1, 1996 - June 30, 1997)*** | | | |
| **Algebra Scores** | **Arithmetic Scores** | | **Required Placement** |
| 20 - 60 | 19 - 29 | | MAT 0003 |
| | 30 - 47 | | MAT 0003 or MAT 0012 |
| | 48 - 120 | | MAT 0012 or MAT 0024 |
| 61 - 80 | **NO SECOND TEST** | | **MAT 1033** ** |
| 81 - 120 | **NO SECOND TEST** | | **Recommended Placement** |
| | | | [4] MAC 1102, MGF 1113 or higher |
| ***(Tested on or After July 1, 1997)*** | | | |
| **Algebra Scores** | **Arithmetic Scores** | | **Required Placement** |
| 20 - 60 | 19 - 29 | | MAT 0003 |
| | 30 - 47 | | MAT 0003 or MAT 0012 |
| | 48 - 120 | | MAT 0012 or MAT 0024 |
| 61 - 71 | **Not Required** | | **MAT 1033** ** |
| | | | **Recommended Placement** |
| 72 - 80 | **Not Required** | | [5]MAT 1033 or MGF 1113 |
| 81 - 120 | **Not Required** | | [4] MAC 1102, MGF 1113 or higher |

(1) Further assessment may be conducted in courses.
(2) Students scoring at this level must see an advisor prior to registering.
(3) If both scores meet these levels, student is eligible for Honors programs. Refer to appropriate office.
(4) See Math advisor. Advanced mathematics test available on individual basis.
(5) See Advisor. Students with majors which require Algebra are encouraged to take MAT 1033.

*New courses replacing REA 1105 and ENC 1130 for students testing in this score range on 7/1/97 and thereafter.
**MAT 1033 satisfies Math requirement only for students admitted prior to 96-1.



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## PLACEMENT CRITERIA BASED ON ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TESTING

Students who enroll without sufficient proficiency in English are required to take the English Placement Test (EPT) and be placed in the designated English as a Second Language (ESL/ENS) course. A documented score of 550 on the TOEFL exempts a student from EPT testing (Technical Manual 501003). CPT testing is required following EPT testing and/or completion of ESL/ENS courses. The following placement scores are currently in use:

| EPT Raw Score[1] | Course Placement[2] |
|---|---|
| 0 - 25 | College Prep 1 |
| 26 - 39 | College Prep 2 |
| 40 - 54 | College Level 1 |
| 55 - 69 | College Level 2 |
| 70 - 84 | College Level 3 |
| 85 - 95 | College Level 4 |
| 96 - 100 | Exempt from ENS |

[1] Approved by Academic Affairs 2/18/92.

[2] Campus department may adjust initial placement based on a writing sample. Further testing may be done in classrooms.

## PROCEDURES FOR TESTING AND PLACEMENT CRITERIA FOR POST-SECONDARY ADULT VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The State of Florida requires each educational agency offering Post-Secondary Adult Vocational Programs of four hundred fifty (450) clock hours or more to administer an approved examination to assess student mastery of basic skills.

**REQUIRED TO BE TESTED:**

1. All first-time-in-program students who designate themselves as certificate-seeking in a program of four hundred fifty (450) or more clock hours. Such students may not register for any PSAV program at Miami-Dade until they have scores on file.

2. All students who complete more than two courses in a program of 450 clock hours or more must be tested before enrolling in the third course of the program.

3. All students who complete a PSAV program of less than 450 hours which has specific exit criteria as defined by the "Vocational Education Program Course Standards."

4. All students whose TABE scores are more than three years old and have not been used for placement.

**EXEMPTED FROM TESTING:**

1. Students who have earned an associate degree or higher from an accredited institution are ordinarily exempted from testing except in specific situations such as certain programs sponsored by external funding agencies.

2. Students who present official scores on any of the State-approved exams (including the CPT) which demonstrate the skill level required by the specific program. The scores must have been obtained within the past three years.

Miami-Dade Community College administers the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) Forms 7 and 8. The Spanish Assessment of Basic Education (SABE) may be administered to students whose native language is Spanish if their mastery of English is insufficient to be tested on the TABE. The College will administer the TABE according to the following rules:

1. If the program provides remediation, the Complete Battery will be administered.

2. Retesting is offered only following completion of a prescribed remediation program, with a minimum 30-day period after initial testing or between retests. When retesting, an alternate form of the Complete Battery is to be used.

All students must have Miami-Dade vocational credit student numbers and will be assessed a $10.00 testing fee (per test administration) prior to testing. It will be the responsibility of the requesting agency or program to handle the matter of vocational credit student numbers and to inform students of the testing fee.

Minimum basic skills grade levels in mathematics and language are defined in each vocational program description adopted under Rule 6A-6.0571, FAC, and published annually by the Commissioner in the document entitled, "Vocational Education Program Course Standards." Program personnel should refer to this document for required program scores.

Miami-Dade Community College may accept official test scores from certified academic institutions and approved Training and Employment Council Agencies. Parameters for testing will be established between coordinating agencies.

Research and Testing Committee
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